



**State of Connecticut**  
**COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Central Office ~ 25 Sigourney Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Hartford, CT 06106

*Promoting Equality and Justice for all People*

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**Public Hearing Testimony in Support of House Bill No. 5050, An Act Modernizing the  
Symbol of Access for Persons with Disabilities  
Government Administration and Elections Committee.**

**February 23, 2016**

To the members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

The Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) supports H.B. 5050.

As the oldest state-sponsored civil rights agency in the nation, CHRO has received its share of complaints filed based on disability discrimination. While changing a symbol on signage may seem like a very small measure, its impact on the minds of those affected could be significant.

The change herein proposed presents an image of a person actively propelling oneself in a wheelchair, rather than merely sitting in a stationary position. This conveys a sense of independence and activity. Such a symbol will be a statement to disabled individuals that the state recognizes them as active members of the community, and a statement to the public at large that disabled persons lead full, active lives.

With this in mind, we ask you to give favorable consideration to H.B. 5050.